USAID AND THE CARR FOUNDATION SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK IN MOZAMBIQUE

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Carr Foundation signed today a Memorandum of Understanding to begin a partnership that will revitalize Gorongosa National Park. A second agreement between USAID and the Carr Foundation is expected to be signed later this year after the Carr Foundation concludes negotiations of a long-term agreement with the Government of Mozambique.

The MOU establishes an alliance between USAID and the Carr Foundation to conduct a Conservation Services project that is one element of the Carr Foundation's long-term program. The objective of the Conservation Services project within the overall Gorongosa National Park program is to create a sanctuary that will allow the Carr Foundation team to replenish the wildlife in the Park, protect the wildlife from poachers, and train skilled game scouts and conservation officers.

Gorongosa National Park is a valuable natural asset and was at one time the premier national park in all of Africa, attracting visitors from around the world. The Park once boasted the highest concentration of wildlife in Africa, but Park infrastructure was destroyed and most of the wildlife poached during Mozambique's 30-year civil conflict. The Park can be revitalized and once again become an international tourist destination.

The Carr Foundation was established in 1999 in the U.S. as an operating foundation dedicated to human rights, the environment, and the arts. The Carr Foundation has signed a MOU with the Ministry of Tourism of Mozambique to provide approximately $6 million over five years of what is envisioned for the overall Gorongosa National Park project. The $6 million will cover staff, equipment, and advisors in the areas of park management, tourism development, science services, and community development. The long-term agreement with the Ministry of Tourism will span 30-years.

Maputo 26th January, 2006